

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 IO-14 /117 W
-----024906 190204Z /61

R 171636Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4155
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 3702

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SG, FR, XA
SUBJECT: GISCARD DISCUSSES AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: IN PRE-SHABA INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MAY 17 IN DAKAR TO COINCIDE WITH SENGHOR'S CURRENT PARIS VISIT, FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING REITERATED HIS CALL FOR RESPECT FOR FRONTIERS, INDEPENDENCE AND "RIGHT TO SECURITY" OF AFRICAN STATES. GISCARD EXPRESSED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIA PLAN AND HOPE THAT SWAPO WILL YET ACCEPT CONTACT GROUP'S NAMIBIA PROPOSALS. HE DESCRIBED FRANCE'S SOUTH AFRICA POLICY AS ONE OF "CONDEMNATION, PRESSURE AND PERSUASION." FRENCH LEADER DENIED THAT FRANCE HAD PLAYED ROLE IN ENGINEERING SEKOU TOURE'S RECONCILIATION WITH DAKAR AND ABIDJAN, BUT TOOK SATISFACTION IN RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT SENGHOR DEPARTS DAKAR MAY 17 FOR THREE-DAY
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OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE, FOLLOWINGWHICH HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT MAY 21-22. DAKAR PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL THEN GO TO U.S. "WHERE HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT." PRESS IS EMPHASIZING THAT, DESPITE SENGHOR'S FREQUENT TRIPS TO FRANCE, THIS IS HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT THERE SINCE 1961.

3. MAY 17 DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL CONTAINS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GISCARD ON MAJOR AFRICAN POLITICAL QUESTIONS. FRENCH PRESIDENT NOTES THAT, "FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS, AFRICA HAS, IN EFFECT, BECOME A LAND OF CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION, AND I WOULD NOT HIDE FROM YOU THAT THAT STRIKES ME AS OF VERY GREAT CONCERN. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES HAVE SEEN THEMSELVES DRAGGED INTO FRATRICIDAL STRUGGLES, OFTEN ENCOURAGED FROM OUTSIDE, WHICH MONOPOLIZE THEIR ENERGY, EXHAUST THEIR RESOURCES AND PREVENT THEM FROM CONCENTRATING ON DEVELOPMENT. THESE QUARRELS INEVITABLY PROVOKE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE CONTINENT. SOME HAVE ASSUMED A DIMENSION WHICH CAN ONLY WORRY ALL THOSE, OF WHOM I AM ONE, WHO WISH AFRICA A FUTURE OF INDEPENDENCE, PROSPERITY, STABILITY AND PEACE." GISCARD SAID FRANCE WAS "DEFENDER OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH, IF THEY ARE RESPECTED, SHOULD PERMIT AFRICA TO MAINTAIN ITSELF APART FROM RIVALRIES BETWEEN FOREIGN POWERS AND IDEOLOGIES. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE THOSE OF ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE FRONTIERS AND INDEPENDENCE OF STATES, ... THE RIGHT OF THESE STATES TO SECURITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE POLITICAL OPTIONS THEY HAVE CHOSEN, ... AND THE PRIORITY TO ACCORD TO THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WORK." (WE NOTE THAT THESE REMARKS PARALLEL THOSE MADE BY GISCARD AT 1977 DAKAR FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN WAKE OF FIRST SHABA INVASION, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWSPAPER MAKES CLEAR THAT CURRENT INTERVIEW WAS ACCORDED BEFORE LATEST "EVENTS" IN SHABA.)

4. IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, GISCARD CALLED FOR APPLICATION OF ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. "ONLY NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS WITH THE ENSEMBLE OF CONCERNED PARTIES" WOULD PERMIT ATTAINMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC MANNER AND AVOID DANGERS OF CIVIL WAR WITH ASSOCIATED RISKS OF INTERVENTION. CALLING SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSALS AN "ENCOURAGING ELEMENT," HE EXPRESSED CONTINUED HOPE THAT, "IN SPITE OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ANGOLA, SWAPO IN ITS TURN WILL ACCEPT OUR PROPOSITIONS." IN RHODESIA, FRANCE CONSIDERS THAT INTERNAL ACCORD "CANNOT RESULT IN A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION." SMITH'S ACCEPTANCE OF ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE PRINCIPLE WAS "A POSITIVE ELEMENT" BUT NOT SUFFICIENT SINCE INTERNAL ACCORD DID NOT FORESEE ROLE FOR EITHER UN OR UK AND REJECTED PATRIOTIC FRONT. "FOR THESE REASONS, FRANCE CONTINUES TO GIVE ITS SUPPORT TO THE SO-CALLED OWEN-VANCE PLAN WHICH APPEARS AT THE PRESENT TIME CAPABLE OF SETTLING THE RHODESIAN QUESTION IN A FAIR

AND EQUITABLE MANNER."

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5. ON SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, GISCARD SAID " FRANCE DOES NOT CONTENT ITSELF WITH VERBAL CONDEMNATIONS." CODE OF CONDUCT ADOPTED BY EEC COUNTRIES FOR SUBSIDIARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND "APPLICATION OF A STRICTLY APPLIED AND SCRUTINIZED EMBARGO ON THE DELIVERY OF ARMS" SHOWED "WILL TO ENCOURAGE REAL CHANGES IN THAT COUNTRY." AT SAME TIME, GISCARD ARGUED THAT "IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS TO TRY BY ALL MEANS TO ISOLATE SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, IMAGINING THAT THAT WOULD SUFFICE TO LEAD IT TO CHANGE ITS POLICY." SUCH A POLICY IS DESIRED BY THOSE WHO "SEE IN INCREASING TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA A WAY TO INCREASE THEIR POLITICAL AND MILITARY INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. THAT IS WHY, FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSOCIATE CONDEMNATION, PRESSURE AND PERSUASION."

6. GISCARD EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE HADPLAYED NO ROLE IN MONROVIA RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GUINEA AND IVORY COAST/
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SENEGAL, BUT HAD FOLLOWED THE "DYNAMIC" WITH SYMPATHY AND INTEREST, HAD APPRECIATED EFFORTS OF TOLBERT AND EYADEMA AND TOOK GREAT SATISFACTION IN RESULTS ACHIEVED.

7. EMBASSY POUCHING FULL TEXT AF/W AND PARIS.
COHEN

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